

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An E-mail management system for managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

an accept unit accepting a setting request of a  
5 forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

a confirming unit executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address.

10 2. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sending unit sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and

a receiving unit receiving a response to the test  
15 mail,

wherein said confirming unit commands said sending unit to send the test mail and confirms a response via said receiving unit.

20 3. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a sending device sending a test mail to the forward destination and a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,

25 wherein said confirming unit commands said sending device to send the test mail via said communication unit and confirms the response received by said receiving device

via said communication unit.

4. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

5       a forward destination registering unit registering the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful; and

          a forward control unit forwarding the E-mail, wherein said forward control unit, where the forward  
10 destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered in said forward destination registering unit, forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address.

15       5. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt  
20 address to the forward destination address,

          wherein said confirming unit commands, if the confirmation proved successful, said mail server to register the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address via said communication unit.

25

6. An E-mail management system according to claim 2, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether or not

the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

7. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirming unit issues a command of sending  
5 test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address, and confirms responses to these two test mails.

8. An E-mail management system according to claim  
10 4, wherein said forward destination registering unit registers a forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range, and registers a forward destination address with  
15 respect to which the confirmation by said confirming unit proved successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

20 9. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising a notifying unit notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

25

10. An E-mail management system according to claim 4, wherein said confirming unit confirms a validity of

the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof, and

5       said forward control unit suspends forwarding to the forward destination address till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

11. An E-mail management system according to claim  
10   5, wherein said communication unit receives a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server, and

      said confirming unit confirms the validity of this forward destination address.

15

12. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, further comprising an information providing unit disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,

20       wherein said confirming unit confirms whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

13. An E-mail management system according to claim 1, wherein said confirming unit confirms whether the  
25   response contains a predetermined data string or not.

14. An E-mail management system cooperating with

a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said system  
5 comprising:

an accept unit accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

a command unit issuing a command of confirming a  
10 validity of the forward destination address.

15. An E-mail management system according to claim 14, further comprising a sending unit sending a test mail to the forward destination,

15 wherein said command unit commands said sending unit to send a test mail and has a validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

20 16. An E-mail management system according to claim 14, further comprising a communication unit communicating with a sending device sending a test mail to the forward destination,

wherein said command unit commands said sending  
25 device to send the test mail to the forward destination address via said communication unit and has the validity of the forward destination address confirmed by a response

to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

17. An E-mail management system according to claim  
5 16, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

18. An E-mail management system according to claim  
14, wherein said command unit issues a command of sending  
test mails respectively to the receipt address and the  
10 forward destination address, and makes said mail server  
confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

19. An E-mail management system according to claim  
16, wherein said communication unit receives a request  
15 for confirming the already-registered forward  
destination address from said mail server, and  
said command unit issues the command of confirming  
the validity of this forward destination address.

20 20. An E-mail management system according to claim  
14, further comprising an information disclosure unit  
disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a  
user who is within a predetermined range.

25 21. An E-mail management system according to claim  
1, wherein said accept unit accepts the setting request  
by receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a

predetermined address.

22. An E-mail management system according to claim  
14, wherein said accept unit accepts the setting request  
5 by receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a  
predetermined address.

23. A mail server cooperating with an E-mail  
management system which accepts a request for setting a  
10 forward destination address corresponding to a receipt  
address of an E-mail, said mail server comprising:

a confirming unit executing a confirmation of a  
validity of the forward destination address; and

a forward destination registering unit registering  
15 the forward destination address corresponding to the  
receipt address of the E-mail,

wherein said forward destination registering unit  
registers the forward destination address with its  
validity confirmed.

20

24. A mail server according to claim 23, further  
comprising a receiving unit receiving a response to a test  
mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming unit confirms the validity  
25 of the forward destination address by the response.

25. A mail server according to claim 23, wherein

said confirming unit confirms whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

26. A mail server according to claim 23, wherein  
5 said confirming unit confirms whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

27. An E-mail forward destination management method  
of managing a forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:  
10 accepting a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail; and  
executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward destination address.

15

28. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:  
sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and  
20 receiving a response to the test mail,  
wherein said confirmation includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response received.

25

29. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising:  
commanding a sending device sending the E-mail to



send a test mail to the forward destination address; and  
communicating with a receiving device receiving a  
response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming the  
5 validity of the forward destination address by the response  
received by said receiving device.

30. An E-mail forward destination management method  
according to claim 27, further comprising:

10 registering the forward destination address  
corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation  
proved successful; and

forwarding the received E-mail addressed to the  
receipt address to the forward destination address when  
15 the forward destination address corresponding to the  
receipt address is registered.

31. An E-mail forward destination management method  
according to claim 27, further comprising commanding a  
20 mail server which registers the forward destination  
address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail,  
and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt  
address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register  
25 the forward destination address if the confirmation proved  
successful.

32. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 28, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

5

33. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address,

10        wherein said confirmation includes confirming responses to these two test mails.

34. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising registering a  
15 forward destination address unconditionally in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range,

          wherein there is registered a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved  
20 successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

35. An E-mail forward destination management method  
25 according to claim 27, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved

unsuccessful, can not be given.

36. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 30, further comprising executing a  
5 confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves  
10 successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

37. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 31, further comprising:  
15 receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address; and confirming the validity of this already-registered forward destination address.

20 38. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming  
25 whether or not the response conforms with the response step.

39. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 27, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

5

40. An E-mail forward destination management method of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server which registers a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said method comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

issuing a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address.

41. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising sending a test mail to the forward destination,

wherein a validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

25

42. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said issuing, a sending

device sending the E-mail is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

43. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 42, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

10

44. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, wherein in said issuing, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

45. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising:

20 receiving a request for confirming the already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing the command of confirming the validity of this forward destination address.

25

46. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 40, further comprising disclosing a

step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

47. An E-mail forward destination management method  
5 according to claim 27, wherein said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

48. An E-mail forward destination management method  
10 according to claim 40, wherein said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

49. An E-mail forward destination management method  
15 of managing a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said method comprising:

20 confirming a validity of the forward destination address;

registering the forward destination address; and

forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is  
25 registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

50. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, further comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination, wherein said confirming includes confirming a  
5 validity of the forward destination address by the response.

51. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes  
10 confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

52. An E-mail forward destination management method according to claim 49, wherein said confirming includes  
15 confirming whether the response contains a predetermined data string or not.

53. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward  
20 destination of an E-mail, said program comprising:  
accepting a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of an E-mail; and  
executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward  
25 destination address.

54. A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program according to claim 53, further comprising:

    sending a test mail to the forward destination address; and

5       receiving a response to the test mail,

    wherein said confirmation includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response received.

10       55. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 53, further comprising:

    commanding a sending device sending the E-mail to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

15       communicating with a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,

    wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

20

    56. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 53, further comprising:

25       registering the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and

    forwarding the received E-mail addressed to the



receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address is registered.

5           57. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further  
comprising commanding a mail server which registers the  
forward destination address corresponding to the receipt  
address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail  
10 addressed to this receipt address to the forward  
destination address,

          wherein said mail server is commanded to register  
the forward destination address if the confirmation proved  
successful.

15

          58. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 54, wherein  
said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the  
response is transmitted from the receipt address.

20

          59. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further  
comprising sending test mails respectively to the receipt  
address and the forward destination address,

25

          wherein said confirmation includes confirming  
responses to these two test mails.

60. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 56, further  
comprising registering a forward destination address  
unconditionally in response to said setting request for  
5 setting the forward destination address that is within  
a predetermined range,

wherein there is registered a forward destination  
address with respect to which the confirmation proved  
successful in response to said setting request for  
10 setting the forward destination address that is beyond  
the predetermined range.

61. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further  
15 comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to  
the forward destination address with respect to which  
the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

62. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
20 recorded with a program according to claim 56, further  
comprising executing a confirmation of a validity of the  
already-registered forward destination address after a  
predetermined period of time has elapsed since the  
registration thereof,

25 wherein said forwarding to the forward destination  
address is suspended till the confirmation proves  
successful after the elapse of the predetermined period

of time.

63. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 57, further  
5 comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the  
already-registered forward destination address; and  
confirming the validity of this already-registered  
forward destination address.

10

64. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 53, further  
comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test  
mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,  
15 wherein said confirmation includes confirming  
whether or not the response conforms with the response  
step.

65. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
20 recorded with a program according to claim 53, wherein  
said confirmation includes confirming whether the  
response contains a predetermined data string or not.

66. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
25 recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward  
destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a mail server  
which registers a forward destination address

corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address, said program comprising:

5           accepting a setting request of a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail; and

            issuing a command of confirming a validity of the forward destination address.

10

67. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, further comprising sending a test mail to the forward destination,

            wherein a validity of the forward destination  
15 address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail server from the receipt address.

68. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, wherein  
20 in said issuing, a sending device sending the E-mail is commanded to send a test mail to the forward destination address, and

            the validity of the forward destination address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail  
25 server from the receipt address.

69. A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program according to claim 68, wherein said sending device is said mail server.

70. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
5 recorded with a program according to claim 66, wherein in said issuing, sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address is commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity of responses to these two test mails.

10

71. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, further comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the  
15 already-registered forward destination address from said mail server; and

issuing the command of confirming the validity of this forward destination address.

20 72. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 66, further comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

25 73. A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 53, wherein said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a

predetermined format at a predetermined address.

74. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 66, wherein  
5 said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a  
predetermined format at a predetermined address.

75. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program making a computer manage a forward  
10 destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail  
management system which accepts a request for setting a  
forward destination address corresponding to a receipt  
address of the E-mail, said program comprising:

confirming a validity of the forward destination  
15 address;

registering the forward destination address; and  
forwarding, when the forward destination address  
corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is  
registered, the E-mail to this forward destination  
20 address.

76. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 75, further  
comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to  
25 the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a  
validity of the forward destination address by the

response.

77. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein  
5 said confirming includes confirming whether the response  
is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

78. A readable-by-computer recording medium  
recorded with a program according to claim 75, wherein  
10 said confirming includes confirming whether the response  
contains a predetermined data string or not.

79. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a  
15 forward destination of an E-mail, comprising:

accepting a request for setting a forward  
destination address corresponding to a receipt address  
of an E-mail; and

executing a confirmation of a validity of the forward  
20 destination address.

80. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further  
comprising:

25 sending a test mail to the forward destination  
address; and

receiving a response to the test mail,

wherein said confirmation includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response received.

5           81. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising:

          commanding a sending device sending the E-mail to send a test mail to the forward destination address; and

10           communicating with a receiving device receiving a response to the test mail,

          wherein said confirmation includes confirming the validity of the forward destination address by the response received by said receiving device.

15

          82. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising:

          registering the forward destination address  
20       corresponding to the receipt address when the confirmation proved successful; and

          forwarding the received E-mail addressed to the receipt address to the forward destination address when the forward destination address corresponding to the  
25       receipt address is registered.

          83. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier



wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising commanding a mail server which registers the forward destination address corresponding to the receipt address of the E-mail, and forwards the received E-mail  
5 addressed to this receipt address to the forward destination address,

wherein said mail server is commanded to register the forward destination address if the confirmation proved successful.

10

84. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 80, wherein said confirmation includes confirming whether or not the response is transmitted from the receipt address.

15

85. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising sending test mails respectively to the receipt address and the forward destination address,

20

wherein said confirmation includes confirming responses to these two test mails.

86. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 82, further  
25 comprising  
registering a forward destination address  
unconditionally in response to said setting request for

setting the forward destination address that is within a predetermined range,

wherein there is registered a forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved  
5 successful in response to said setting request for setting the forward destination address that is beyond the predetermined range.

87. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
10 wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further comprising notifying that a permission of forwarding to the forward destination address with respect to which the confirmation proved unsuccessful, can not be given.

15 88. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 82, further comprising executing a confirmation of a validity of the already-registered forward destination address after a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the  
20 registration thereof,

wherein said forwarding to the forward destination address is suspended till the confirmation proves successful after the elapse of the predetermined period of time.

25

89. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 83, further

comprising:

receiving a request for confirming the  
already-registered forward destination address; and  
confirming the validity of this already-registered  
5 forward destination address.

90. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, further  
comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test  
10 mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range,  
wherein said confirmation includes confirming  
whether or not the response conforms with the response  
step.

15 91. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, wherein  
said confirmation includes confirming whether the  
response contains a predetermined data string or not.

20 92. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a  
forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with a  
mail server which registers a forward destination address  
corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail and  
25 forwards the received E-mail addressed to this receipt  
address to the forward destination address, said program  
comprising:

accepting a setting request of a forward destination  
address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail;  
and

issuing a command of confirming a validity of the  
5 forward destination address.

93. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, further  
comprising sending a test mail to the forward destination,  
10 wherein a validity of the forward destination  
address is confirmed by a response to the test mail, to  
said mail server from the receipt address.

94. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
15 wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, wherein  
in said issuing, commanding a sending device sending the  
E-mail is commanded to send a test mail to the forward  
destination address, and

the validity of the forward destination address is  
20 confirmed by a response to the test mail, to said mail  
server from the receipt address.

95. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 94, wherein  
25 said sending device is said mail server.

96. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier

wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, wherein  
in said issuing, sending test mails respectively to the  
receipt address and the forward destination address is  
commanded, and making said mail server confirm the validity  
5 of responses to these two test mails.

97. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, further  
comprising:

10 receiving a request for confirming the  
already-registered forward destination address from said  
mail server; and

issuing the command of confirming the validity of  
this forward destination address.

15

98. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, further  
comprising disclosing a step of the response to a test  
mail, to a user who is within a predetermined range.

20

99. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 79, wherein  
said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a  
predetermined format at a predetermined address.

25

100. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
wave and encoding a program according to claim 92, wherein

said accepting includes receiving the E-mail in a predetermined format at a predetermined address.

101. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
5 wave and encoding a program making a computer manage a forward destination of an E-mail in cooperation with an E-mail management system which accepts a request for setting a forward destination address corresponding to a receipt address of the E-mail, said program comprising:  
10 confirming a validity of the forward destination address;  
registering the forward destination address; and  
forwarding, when the forward destination address corresponding to an address of the E-mail received is  
15 registered, the E-mail to this forward destination address.

102. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, further  
20 comprising receiving a response to a test mail sent to the forward destination,

wherein said confirming includes confirming a validity of the forward destination address by the response.

25

103. computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and encoding a A program according to claim 101, wherein

said confirming includes confirming whether the response is transmitted from the receipt address or not.

104. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
5 wave and encoding a program according to claim 101, wherein  
said confirming includes confirming whether the response  
contains a predetermined data string or not.